

Our Mission:
*To ensure quality
learning opportunities for
all students of all ages.*

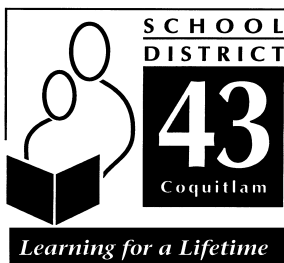
Melissa Hyndes
Board Chair

Gail Alty
Board Vice-Chair

Holly Butterfield
Debra Burton
John J. Keryluk
Brian Robinson
Julie Rogers
Gerri Wallis
Keith Watkins

Laureen Doerksen
Superintendent of Schools

Lorcan O'Melinn
Secretary-Treasurer



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

The Board Update

*News from the December 7, 2004
School Board Meeting*

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Doug Macdonell, president of the Coquitlam Soccer Association, presented on the renaming of Dr. Charles Best Field to Domenic Mobilio Athletic Field, in honour of the late local soccer player and coach. The board deferred its decision until the January 11th meeting to allow time to get input from the Charles Best school community and the rugby and field lacrosse users.

Village of Anmore Councilor Ken Juvik presented a recently passed resolution on behalf of the Village that deals with the issue of food offered in School District 43. The issue was addressed later in the meeting under Unfinished Business.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Laureen Doerksen noted that a number of Christmas activities are underway in the schools, and thanked staff and parents for all of the work involved in presenting these much anticipated events. She also noted a number of other activities and initiatives centering on literacy, numeracy, physical activity and social responsibility. Other items included:

- The Ministry recently released the province's school completion rates. At 84% completion, Coquitlam School District is well above the provincial average of 79%
- Hundreds of young actors converged on Gleneagle Secondary Nov. 29th to Dec. 3rd for the annual theatrical event, Metfest
- The district took part in a second provincial webcast on reading strategies
- The district looks forward to welcoming its new Assistant Superintendent, Sylvia Russell, February 1st

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorcan O'Melinn reported on the 2004/05 Fiscal Year End Financial Projection. The final allotments from the Ministry have been approved, and the projection shows a surplus of approximately \$141,000. The majority of the increase is due to the enrolment reserve funding turning out higher than budgeted – by approximately \$124,000. Mr. O'Melinn noted that the year-end projection is based on actual expenditures as of the end of November, representing only three months of school being in session.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Holly Butterfield, board representative on the Anmore Liaison Committee, reported on the November 8th meeting. Items discussed included busing, the possibility of using the elementary school for Village meetings, the Heritage Mountain middle school site and nutrition in schools.

Trustee John J. Keryluk, board representative on the Port Coquitlam Liaison Committee, reported on a November 17th meeting. Items discussed in that meeting included an anti-graffiti program and forum.

Other items at the liaison meeting included a presentation by Mark Dale, Director of Facilities, on the school district's capital plan, the possibility of the Francophone school being used during construction at Minnekhada, school drop-off zones, the lack of sidewalks in various areas and concerns about inadequate street lighting.

EDUCATION

Maureen Dockendorf, Director of Instruction, and coordinators Jill Reid and Darren MacMillan outlined the process underway to implement the new Graduation Program in the district. The program starts with the introduction of formal exams and Planning 10, and concludes with the presentation of the Graduation Portfolio in Grade 12. A team of teachers has designed the program for the district and a larger group of secondary teachers comprises the implementation team that will disseminate the information to their colleagues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion brought forward to establish school based committees and get more parent input into food sold in the schools was defeated. The board voted that in the new year, a district committee will be formed to develop a nutritional policy for the district.

Based on concerns about children's safety, the board voted unanimously in favour of writing letters to the three municipalities, two villages and TransLink stating its opposition to building at-grade rapid transit in the Tri-Cities.

BCPSEA MOTION

The board will submit the motion that BCPSEA, during the arbitration update portion of the Labour Relations Symposium every year, disclose the legal costs and disbursements incurred by BCPSEA per arbitration.

NEW BUSINESS

The board reported that the Canada International Language College Ltd. (CILC) operations under the School District 43 Business Company will be transferred to the school district's public operations, reporting to the international education department.

As noted under "Delegations", the board deferred its decision on renaming the Dr. Charles Best field until the January 11th meeting to allow time to get input from the Charles Best school community and the rugby and field lacrosse users.

Secretary-treasurer Lorcan O'Melinn submitted budget principles and draft timelines for trustee review for the 2005/06 fiscal year. The Ministry of Education is expected to release district-level funding information before spring break in March. The public will have three opportunities to give input on the proposed budget prior to final passage at the end of April.

BCSTA ITEMS

Given the late hour, Trustee Julie Rogers agreed to give her report at the January 11th meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee John J. Keryluk reported on his attendance at a recent evening of school band performances, noting that a number of them were of high calibre.

Trustee Julie Rogers noted the exemplary work of Centennial Secondary's Impact leadership group. On Dec. 14th, the Impact students will prepare breakfast for Mountain view Elementary students.

Trustee Gail Alty reported out on the Coquitlam Foundation's Annual General Meeting September 30th.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Melissa Hyndes was re-elected as board chair by acclamation, while Gail Alty was elected as vice-chair.



Mark Your Calendar!

The next regular Board Meeting will be
Tuesday, January 11, 2005
7:30 p.m.
School Board Office

For more information on the Board Update Contact:
Cheryl Quinton, Manager of Communications and Corporate Services at 604-937-6775 or cquinton@sd43.bc.ca